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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/918,989	07/31/2001	Gary Gustine	100.204US01	3774

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EXAMINER	
TRAN, THANH Y	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2827

DATE MAILED: 12/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/918,989

Applicant(s)

GUSTINE ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh Y. Tran

Art Unit

2841 2827

MW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 136-140 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 136-140 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 10.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3, 6-7, 9-11, 137 and 140 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cantrell (U.S. 5,642,264).

With respect to claim 1, Cantrell discloses a case (201, Fig. 5) for confining a first circuit card to a particular location within a housing, the case (201) comprising: a pair of opposing end walls (see the two horizontal walls of 201 as shown in figure 5); a pair of opposing side walls (see the two vertical walls of 201 as shown in figure 5) coupled to the end walls; wherein the pair of end walls and the side walls form a slot; and an actuator (301/303, Figs. 5-6) disposed within the slot, the actuator (301/303) engageable with the first circuit card (601) for clamping the first circuit card (601) between the actuator and one of the pair of opposing end walls of the case (201).

With respect to claim 3, figure 6 shows that the circuit card (601) is in slidable contact with the case (201).

With respect to claim 6, figure 5 of Cantrell shows that the case (201) further comprising a second circuit card; and a partition (210) sandwiched therebetween and the actuator (301 or 303, Figs. 5-6) is engageable with one of the circuit cards (601). It should be noted that: since

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case (201) includes more than one connector 205 (see col. 8, lines 38-50) mounted inside the case, the case is inherent to include a second circuit card

With respect to claim 7, Cantrell discloses a case (201, Fig. 5) for confining a pair of circuit cards to different locations within a housing, the case (201) comprising a pair of opposing side walls (see the two vertical walls of 201 as shown in figure 5) and first and second end walls (see the two horizontal walls of 201 as shown in figure 5); a partition (210) disposed between the first and second end walls that divides the case (210) into a first slot bounded by a portion of each of the side walls, the partition, and the first end wall and a second slot bounded by another portion of each of the side walls, the partition, and the second end wall; the first and second slots each containing one of the circuit cards (see the corresponding connector 205, in each slot of case 201, which will be mated with a circuit card, see col. 8, lines 30-65); and an actuator (301/303, Figs. 5-6) engageable with the circuit card (601) in the first slot for clamping the circuit card (601) in the first slot, the partition, and the circuit card in the second slot between the actuator (301/303) and the second end wall.

With respect to claim 9, it recites limitations similar to claim 3. Thus, it is rejected for the same reasons.

With respect to claim 10, figure 5 of Cantrell shows that the partition (210) is inherent in slidable contact with each of the sidewalls of the case (210).

With respect to claims 137 and 140, Cantrell discloses a case (201, Fig. 5) wherein the actuator (301/303) is a wedge (see col. 5, lines 11 - col. 6, line 55).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2, 8, 12, 136 and 139 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cantrell (U.S. 4,547,833).

With respect to claims 2, 136 and 139, Cantrell does not teach that the actuator is a resilient element or a cam. The Examiner takes Official Notice that it is known to provide a resilient element in the slot of the case for engaging the circuit card. Thus, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the case of Cantrell by including an actuator is a resilient element or a cam in the slot of the case for rotatively mounting and securing the circuit card to the case.

With respect to claim 8, it recites limitations similar to claim 2. Thus, it is rejected for the same reasons.

With respect to claim 12, it recites limitations similar to claim 5. Thus, it is rejected for the same reasons.

5. Claims 4-5, 11 and 138 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cantrell (U.S. 4,547,833) in view of Su (U.S. 2002/0141153).

With respect to claims 4-5, 11 and 138, Cantrell does not teach the case or circuit card is thermally coupled to the housing, and a heat sink is disposed between the case and the housing.

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Su teach a case (3) is thermally coupled to the housing (32), and a heat sink (44) is disposed between the case (3) and the housing (32) (see col. 2, lines 14-43). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Cantrell by including a heat sink is disposed between the case or circuit card and the housing so that the case is thermally coupled to the housing as taught as Su for releasing the heat being generated from the case and the housing.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh Tran whose telephone number is (703)-305-4757. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30AM – 5:00PM. The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cuneg Kamand can be reached at (703) 308-1233.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-308-0956.

TYT


EVAN PERT
PRIMARY EXAMINER